

Duxbury Reporter



Rock Paper Scissors Toy Store owners Leslie Burton, left, and Kim Panton have some fun playing Thumb Ball but are serious in business at their new independent specialty toy store at 45 Depot St. STAFF PHOTOS/KATHRYN KOCH



Giramondo travel kits from Trudi allow children to explore the world from their backyard accompanied by a furry friend.

NEW BUSINESS

Toys as teaching tools

High-quality specialty toys at Rock Paper Scissors are fun, inspire imagination and promote learning

By Kathryn Koch
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DUXBURY - On the surface, Rock Paper Scissors may look like just another toy store, but dig a little deeper and the owners hope customers will discover a large selection of toys for all types of learners.

Kim Panton and Leslie

Burton are excited about offering new ways for children to learn life skills while playing with toys their parents would typically not encounter elsewhere.

"The idea behind the store is to offer new and exciting toys you don't typically find in big box stores," Panton said.

Burton's experience as a

SEE TOYS, 8

TOYS

Continued from 1

first-grade teacher and elementary school and district reading specialist and Panton's skills as a marketing specialist have aided the process of finding the right toys for their store. On trips to large toy shows in New York and California, they knew what they were looking for: toys that are also teaching tools.

Panton and Burton have help. They convened a board of 15 advisors who are professionals in fields like teaching, neuropsychology and speech pathology, among others, who can help them match toys with children who have different needs, like an added emphasis on fine motor skills and balance, or who have behavioral and emotional issues.

"We really feel this is a different type of toy store," Panton said.

Their process of discovery has led to a collection of toys from all over the United States, including Massachusetts, Europe and other countries being sold at their specialty toy store. Some of the toys are from small companies that focus on one product, while others have a wider range of products.

Both women are parents who are active in the community. Their children are their test subjects for many of the toys they sell, with Burton's daughters, ages 7 and 10, and Panton's sons, ages 6 and 7, offering their different perspectives.

Burton said the toys for children up through the age of 12 are purposefully open-ended, creative and interactive toys. The store is divided into different sections that includes a learning corner, science section and travel section.

Panton and Burton want

to be a resource for the community by offering in-store classes and events for adults and children. Children can have fun writing with chalk on the blackboards in the events area. The business partners want the store to be a community center.

Burton wants to help parents build literacy skills through "Leaping into Literacy" workshops, with classes for 3-year-olds, 4- and 5-year-olds and kindergartners. They will also offer a Mommy and Baby Coffee Hour and a weekly social skills class with different sessions for different age groups playing games in which they work as a group toward a common goal.

"They learn the skills of turn-taking and working together to reach their goal," Burton said.

By creating their own website, www.rockpaperscissorsduxbury.com, the business partners are welcoming parents and others into their new world of toys for the sake of learning while having fun.

Panton and Burton have created a wishlist section on their website similar to a gift registry, where relatives and friends can pick out toys selected by the children to give as gifts. As the toys are selected, they are removed from view.

Rock Paper Scissors opened Monday. The business hours in August are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Starting in September, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The community is invited to a grand opening party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, featuring toys as prizes, 10- to 30-percent off coupons for the day, a balloon artist from 10 a.m. to noon, face painting, temporary tattoos and special activities.



Animals from the Trudi line of plush puppets are worn by Rock Paper Scissors Toy Store owners Kim Pantan, left, and Leslie Burton. STAFF PHOTOS/KATHRYN KOCH



Fake snow and other experimental toys can be found in the science section at Rock Paper Scissors



The new Moulin Roty line of toys from France can be found Rock Paper Scissors